

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants believe that consideration of this amendment is proper because they have attempted to comply with every requirement expressly set forth in the previous Office Action dated June 16, 2008 (Paper No. 20080610) and believe the application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 with appreciation. It is further noted that claims 15-19, 21, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form or if they depended from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 12, 26, 30, 35, 36, 39 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shindo in U.S. Patent No. 5,587,320, in view of the English translations of Kitsui (JP 11300324) and/or Kitsui (JP 2001120460) and further in view of Shimizu (EP 0599661). Applicants submit that the amended claims submitted herewith are patentable thereover.

The features of Claim 15 have been incorporated into Claim 12. Claim 15 has therefore been cancelled as redundant.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to recite that pluvimixing rings are respectively provided at outer sides of each helical blade stirrer, on which a plurality of blocks for loosening are provided. In the discussion on the allowability of claim 1, the Examiner stated that this combination was not disclosed in the prior art. Applicants

Appl. No. 10/756,740  
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respectfully suggest that the addition of this feature to claim 12 differentiates this claim, and all claims having the same features, from the cited references. Claim 26 depends directly from claim 12 and should, therefore be patentable.

Claims 35, 36, 39 and 40 all depend from claim 30. Claim 30 also includes all features of claim 12, including the pluvimixing rings and blocks. Therefore, these claims should also be found to be patentable.

By the above arguments and amendments, Applicant believes that they have complied with all requirements expressly set forth in the pending Office Action. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance on the remaining allowed claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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